

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

TARO SUITO, ET AL.

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2613

SERIAL NO: 09/448,836

FILED: NOVEMBER 23, 1999

: EXAMINER: VO, T.

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## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2002, the following remarks traversing the several grounds for rejection are presented.

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-87 are presently active in this application. No claims have been amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 18-25, 28, 29, 40-46, 49, 50, 61-68, 71, 72, and 83-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,818 to Suito et al. (hereinafter "the '818 patent"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,100,941 to Dimitrova et al. (hereinafter "the '941 patent"); Claims 17, 39, 60, and 82 were allowed; and Claims 4, 5, 8-16, 26, 27, 30-38, 47, 48, 51-59, 69, 70, and 73-81 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in